SONGWRITING FROM SCRATCH Jilly Jarman www.jillyjarman.co.uk
More music on www.sibelius.com & www.bluejamcumbria.com

Ideas for turning warm-ups and games into songs you want to sing using chord progressions as a starting point

Descending bassline.
This is common, instantly recognisable accompaniment sequence that can lead to a pop, rock, blues, swing feel etc.

A complete beginner can play it on a keyboard. (or bass, or xyl etc)
NB. Choose people who can keep a steady beat or set up a structure to support them.

YOU'RE MEAN. Used extensively in London and Cumbrian schools

This example starts on an E, so that it can be played with only white notes.
The key is E minor for the verse, G major for the Middle 8 (chorus)

VERSE: (3 lines)

You're Mean mean in the morning You're
Mean mean at night! You're
Mean mean in the evening You're

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

	G		G		G		(F*)
	E		E		E		(D*)
E		D		C		B	(D*)

(4th line)

e- ven mean when you're out of sight!

G				F*			
E				D*			
A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B

MIDDLE EIGHT: (3 lines)

I don't have a clue what to do about you! YEAH! (X3)

	B		B		C		C
	G		G		A		A
G		E		A		D	

(4th line) SLOW RIGHT DOWN

I don't have a clue what to do about you! cos You're…….
YEAH!

	B		B		C		(F*)
	G		G		A		(D*)
G		E		F*		B	

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